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## **Book Reviews**

THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF THE HARVARD LAW SCHOOL. Harvard Law School Association. 1918. pp. x, 412.

To the graduate of the Harvard Law School this book will be a mine of treasure with its biographical sketches and portraits of the faculty, from Isaac Parker to Roscoe Pound; its illustrations of the school buildings, from the Webber House to Langdell Hall; its sketches of such familiar scenes as the stacks at Austin with Dean Ames' desk and the picture of John "at the Delivery Desk since 1883."

The history is compiled, however, in such readable style that it will interest any lawyer, and a glance at the list of distinguished judges, lawyers, and teachers among the alumni of the school will suggest the enormous influence the institution has had on the law of the country.

The early benefactors, Royall and Dane, of Dane's Abridgment, had the vision. Judge Isaac Parker and Stearns just barely failed in accomplishment. The realization began in the sixteen years during which Judge Story presided, with his learning, enthusiasm and prestige, aided as he was by the accurate and scholarly Greenleaf and the assistance of Ashmun and Charles Sumner. Then came Judge Joel Parker, Parsons and Wash-The comparative failure at the end of this illustrious triumvirate taught a lesson that will never be forgosten. A school cannot stand still-if it does not progress it will surely fall back. The new growth came with Langdell; he instituted prerequisites for admission and for graduation, standards of teaching, new methods of instruction. The work of the "Big Four," Langdell, Ames, Gray and Thayer, to whom was later added Judge Jeremiah Smith, culminated about 1910. Mindful of the lessons of the past, Ezra Ripley Thayer was selected as Dean to carry on the new work, being succeeded on his untimely death by the present Dean, Roscoe Pound.

The school is now organized for service in solving the social problems of the time without losing the efficiency of the old legal training. This is being done without any violent break with the past. The great pupils of Langdell and Ames still remain—Beale, Wambaugh, Williston. The latest developments of juristic theory and history will be presented to the students not as something detached but as the natural method of instruction in the living law enforced by the courts of today. Above all, however, the reader of this history will feel that the greatness of the school depends, not on its building, its library or anything that money can buy, but in the indefinable spirit which has been created by a hundred years of devotion to the law by faculty and students.

A. M. Kidd.